

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Carpenters Square (May Turpin Farm) Inventory Number: QA-131

Address: Wye Mills Centreville Road (MD 213) (west side) Historic district: yes ☒ no ☐

City: Wye Mills/Queenstown Zip Code: _____ County: Queen Annes

USGS Quadrangle(s): Wye Mills

Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____

Project: _____ Agency: _____

Agency Prepared By: DOT/FHWA/E. Elinsky

Preparer's Name: _____ Date Prepared: 12/3/1979

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

to visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no ☐ Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The stuccoed brick main house of this plantation complex is architecturally significant as a prominent example of the Federal Period of architecture, embodied in its side-hall, double-parlor plan, similar to other Eastern Shore house types. The brick slave quarter, originally built with a center chimney, is a rare and intact example of this building type. A granary on the property is significant for its method of construction, showing the unique use of "staddle stone" footings. This complex is associated with agricultural development in its land use as a farm since the 18th c.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Federal DOE

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Carol D. Schull (Keeper of NR)

Monday, February 11, 1980

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

QA-131
May Turpin Farm
Wye Mills vicinity
Private

circa 1830

There are three buildings of interest on the May Turpin Farm. The main house is a large brick dwelling typical of the Federal period, with a side hall-double parlor plan that was widely used on the Eastern Shore. In both plan and form, this house is similar to a number of other early 19th century houses in the county, including Lansdowne (QA-87), Fincastle (QA-60), and the Hiram Hammond house (QA-126), located approximately 1 1/2 miles to the south.

Directly adjacent to the house on the north is a brick outbuilding believed to be one of the few surviving examples of a slave quarter in Queen Anne's County. The unusual outshut form and two room plan with central chimney constitute a unique house type in this county, and the evidence of an open loft and dirt floor are a rare survival of architectural features found in small buildings in Tidewater Maryland throughout the pre-industrial period.

Also of interest is a well-preserved granary dating to the mid-19th century which is set on the only recorded example of "staddle stone" footings in the county.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

below each first floor window. The door opening has a paneled soffit and jambs, and the paneled door is set off by a three-light transom. The present door surround has a Federal flavor to it, but may be a modern feature. Traces of an entrance porch remain visible in the stucco rendering, which has been scored on this facade to suggest rustication. No evidence remains visible to identify the bonding pattern of the brickwork, and there is no watertable or belt course. The cornice is corbeled in brick and stuccoed, while the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south gable wall is now partially concealed by a modern one story frame addition. The gable facade of the early house is dominated by the paired brick chimneys which protrude approximately five inches from the wall surface, and are shouldered at the second floor eave level. A modern single-flue chimney has been added against this wall, rising between the original chimneys. There are six-over-six windows in the east and west bays on the first and second floor, and two small six-over-six windows between the original chimneys in the upper gable. Cellar windows remain below each first floor window, and the west cellar

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

window is still fitted with three-over-three sash and a wood frame with diamond-section horizontal bars. The gable eaves are finished with beaded and tapered rakeboards.

The west or rear facade was originally similar to the front facade, but the door in the north bay has been changed to a window, and the outline of an entrance porch is the only visible evidence of this change. A bulkhead cellar entrance is now located in the north bay of this facade, but this is probably a result of modern alterations, and was originally located on one of the gable walls. This facade, as well as both gable walls, is rendered with stucco but is not rusticated.

The north gable is partially covered by a two story frame addition. The east portion of this facade remains exposed, with a six-over-six window on the first and second floor, and a three-over-three cellar window located directly below the first floor window. The east bay is not expressed in the upper gable, leaving a single diminutive six-over-six window in the west bay. The rakeboards are plain and untapered.

The interior is not accessible at the present time.

Granary

Included among the farm buildings to the southwest of the main house is a large, timber frame granary, probably dating to the mid-19th century. It is forty feet long and twenty-six feet wide, with a steeply pitched roof. Now covered with asbestos shingle siding and a tin roof, only the general form of the building suggests its age from the exterior. Double doors in the center of the south facade and a large single door hung on wrought strap hinges at the north end of the east gable are the only openings.

The interior is divided into four bays, with the eastern three bays serving as a granary and the west bay as a corn crib. The portion of the building used as a granary has been divided into several storage areas on both the main floor and in the loft, while the crib is open to the roof. An enclosed stair in the southeast corner of the building provides access to the loft.

The principal framing consists of heavy hewn posts, sills, and top plates, with each post reinforced with one or two downbraces. The posts in the center of the building are chamfered and have carefully shaped

bearing plates supporting the heavy hewn girt that runs longitudinally down the center of the building. The ceiling joists are notched over this center girt and are paired. The roof is made of heavy hewn and sawn common rafters set at a 44 degree pitch. They are set onto a flat false plate with a birdmouth notch and are mitred, butted and nailed at the ridge. The combination of hewn timbers and mitred ridge connections is somewhat unusual, and may suggest a transitional, mid-19th century building, in which old methods of framing are mixed with industrial age jointing techniques.

Of particular interest are the "staddle stone" footings that support the building. These consist of dressed granite piers with flat granite "bearing plates" which also serve as deterrents to rodents. It is unclear whether these foundation stones are original, but they are the only recorded example in Queen Anne's County.

Slave Quarter

Immediately to the north of the large brick house on the Turpin farm is a small brick outbuilding. Although the original use of this building cannot be positively ascertained, architectural evidence strongly suggests it was either a slave quarter or a combined kitchen and quarter.

The building is of rather unusual form, with a pitched-roof front section that measures approximately 16 feet wide and 14 feet deep, and an original outshut that stretches an additional 11½ feet to the rear. The brickwork is laid in five course bond without a watertable. The roof has been rebuilt but copies the original roof in form and pitch. A one-flue exterior chimney has been added to the west gable of the front section, replacing the original chimney located in the center of the building.

The front facade faces south, with a door located in the center bay and a small six-light sash window to the left of the door mounted on side hinges to serve as a casement. A large six-over-six window is centered on the east gable of the front section, while simple doors in both the east and west walls of the rear

section allow access to the outshut.

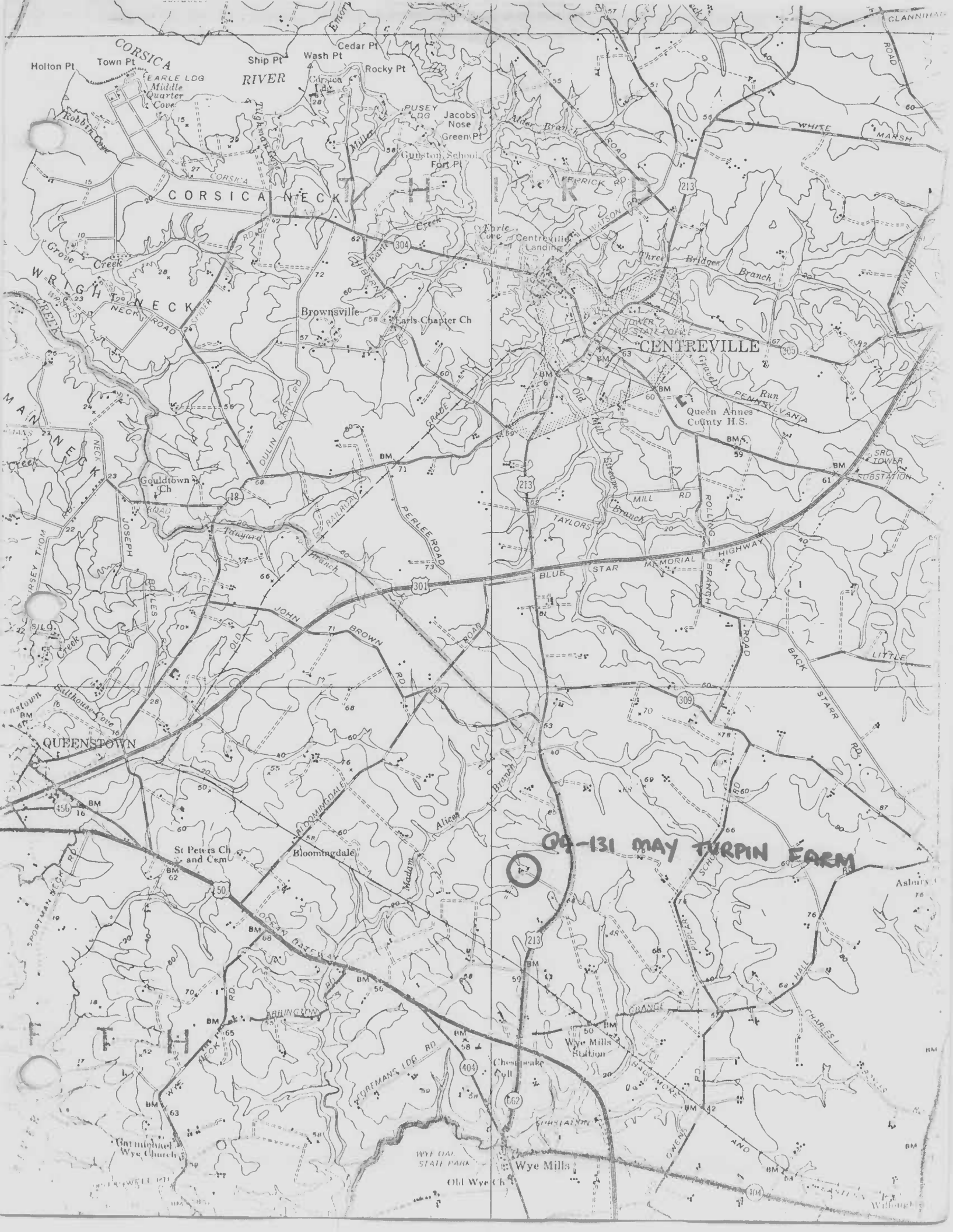
The interior is divided into a single room in the front section with an open loft and a slightly smaller room in the rear outshut. There is no interior access between the two rooms, but seams in the brick partition wall indicate the location of an original shared chimney stack that has been demolished. This projected out into the front room, with fireplaces in both the front and rear rooms. A small fireplace in the west wall of the front room was cut in when the original chimney was demolished. Both rooms clearly had dirt floors, and the rear room had whitewashed brick walls, while traces of plaster remain on two of the walls in the front room. The loft in the front room was apparently always open, as there is no evidence of flooring nails on the top face of the joists, though boards were sometimes laid across the joists without being nailed down. The existing joists all appear to be original, as they are bedded in the masonry of the front and rear wall. Two of these are clearly pit sawn, while a third is obviously circular sawn, suggesting a date of construction of circa 1840.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the pre-industrial period.

Also of interest is a well-preserved granary dating to the mid-19th century which is set on the only recorded example of "staddle stone" footings in the county.



04-131 MAY TURPIN FARM

QA-131
May Turpin
Farm

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-131 May Turpin Farm

Building to rear of house
(since destroyed)

Queen Anne's County Historical
Society file photograph

Probably James W. Valliant c. 1974

back at

QA 131